

URGING THE PRESIDENT TO EMULATE GOVERNOR WHITMAN AND FIND A WILL AND A WAY TO REDUCE GOVERNMENT SPENDING

(Mr. MARTINI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MARTINI. Mr. Speaker, tonight Gov. Christie Todd Whitman will give the response to the State of the Union Address. She was chosen because of her determination to work for a smaller, smarter, less costly government in New Jersey.

It has been said "for democratic nations to be virtuous and prosperous, they require but the will to do it." Governor Whitman has displayed that will by her actions in making the tough decision. I can only hope tonight the President will come to Capitol Hill with that same determination to work with the new majority in Congress to once and for all transform the Federal Government.

Since January 4 the new Congress has demonstrated that type of will. This was apparent in the passage of the Congressional Accountability Act, as well as our willingness and determination to move forward to pass the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and the balanced budget amendment.

Mr. Speaker, after the speeches are done tonight, what the American people will be looking for is not more talk, but rather for our President to cooperate and reaffirm the simple but effective lesson taught to us by Governor Whitman of New Jersey: Where there is a will, there is a way.

TIME TO PLACE FAIR VALUE ON THE PRESIDENT'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS

(Mr. GUTIERREZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, tonight our President will come to this Chamber to speak on the state of our Union. Many pundits have suggested that this is a time to re-evaluate our President. Let me suggest that perhaps it is time to place fair value on what he has accomplished.

In the storm of myths and misrepresentation, much of it from the other side of the aisle, we lose sight of real accomplishments that affect real people.

President Clinton, despite partisan opposition, fought for an earned income tax credit that brought tax relief to 40,000 families in my congressional district alone, and millions in this Nation.

President Clinton, despite partisan opposition, has achieved the largest deficit reduction plan in history, while still creating almost 6 million jobs.

President Clinton, despite partisan opposition, has expanded Head Start for the children of Chicago and America.

And President Clinton, despite partisan opposition, has battled to take guns off our streets and put more police officers on them so we can be safer.

Mr. Speaker, I urge President Clinton not to re-evaluate but to continue to work for working people.

WHILE REPUBLICANS TRY TO CHANGE GOVERNMENT, DEMOCRATS TRY TO CHANGE THE SUBJECT

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, the biggest bankruptcy in the world today is not occurring in Orange County or even in Mexico, but on the minority side of the aisle right here in this Chamber. With their petty parliamentary pranks, the Democrats are driving themselves into the intellectual bankruptcy.

However, while the Democrats are busy committing slow political suicide, Republicans are making good on their promises to the American people to pass an unfunded mandate bill and a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution.

I have news for my friends on the other side of the aisle. No amount of partisan sniping is going to distract us from doing the real work the American people sent us here to do.

After we finish blowing the dust off the 10th amendment the Democrats for years have ignored, by passing an unfunded mandates bill, we are going to pass a balanced budget amendment as an encore.

While we are trying to change the Government, the Democrats just want to change the subject.

CALLING FOR MEMBERS' ASSISTANCE REGARDING FEDERAL INVESTIGATION OF WEAVER FAMILY KILLINGS

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, in 1992 Federal agents attacked the Weaver family in Idaho. They killed 14-year-old Sammy Weaver. They shot him in the back. They then shot an unarmed Mrs. Weaver and killed her, shooting her right between the eyes as she held her infant baby. They even killed the dog. Court documents now prove the FBI lied in court. Federal agents fired first. Weaver was entrapped into a gun violation.

Mr. Speaker, is this the Justice Department or is this the KGB? I always thought in America our Government does not shoot 14-year-olds in the back. Our Government does not shoot unarmed mothers while they hold their infant.

Mr. Speaker, I have asked for a Federal investigation of this matter, and

both sides of the aisle need to provide some oversight to the agencies of our Justice Department. I would appreciate the Members' help.

THE REPUBLICAN MAJORITY CONTINUES TO PURSUE THE GOALS OF THE CONTRACT WITH AMERICA

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I have read a few news reports in recent days that suggest the Republicans are cooling on their commitment to the Contract With America. Let me just say, speaking for this newly elected Republican Congress, that just ain't so. Any reports that the Republican majority is backing away from the contract is wishful thinking on the part of those who support the status quo.

The fact is the new Republican majority is here to bring revolutionary change to the Congress. The Congressional Accountability Act has already been signed into law, making applicable to Congress laws from which Congress had exempted itself for years.

We will soon pass the bill to restrain unfunded mandates. Later this week or next we will take up and pass a balanced budget amendment containing, I fervently hope, a restriction on additional taxes. One by one we will work our way through the contract and fulfill our pledge to the American people.

Mr. Speaker, the Washington establishment and many of the guardians of the old order in this House may wish that the Republican majority failed, but we will not. The American people will not allow it to happen.

CONGRESS SHOULD STOP PARTISAN QUIBBLING AND PASS REFORMS SOUGHT BY THE AMERICAN PUBLIC

(Mrs. SMITH of Washington asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I have been in this office now for 20 days, and I have been keeping a list of all of the things that are supposed to be kept in the budget, as the minority has listed day by day just about everything to be left in the budget.

Mr. Speaker, I think what I find is they did not get the message this last November. Balancing the budget and getting rid of the national debt was the No. 1 issue the American people sent us here to do. We cannot spend our way to recovery.

Let us talk about what people really want. They want a strong America, an America in the future that will be able to pay its debt, and not have an America that cannot take care of its children; an America that can take care or

paying the Social Security commitments that we have made to the elderly, not a bankrupt America that cannot take care of its commitments.

Mr. Speaker, what I say today is to do that, we have to pass a balanced budget amendment. We have to get done with the quibbling, the talking about unimportant things, and pass a balanced budget amendment with a three-fifths tax increase vote.

IN MEMORY OF ROSE FITZGERALD KENNEDY

(Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy, the matriarch of America's most celebrated political family, who passed away on Sunday surrounded by family and friends at her home in Hyannis Port, MA. She was 104. Her remarkable life spanned a century and saw great triumph and despair, but through it all Rose Kennedy always carried herself with the characteristic grace, style, and dignity that became her trademark.

Born in 1890, Rose Elizabeth Fitzgerald was introduced to politics at an early age by her father, the former Congressman and mayor of Boston, John F. "Honeyfitz" Fitzgerald. A gifted student who spoke several languages, she graduated from Convent of the Sacred Heart in Boston and at age 24 married businessman Joseph Patrick Kennedy.

In the next 18 years Joseph and Rose Kennedy had nine children. One would be elected President of the United States. Two served in the Senate. And another became Ambassador to Ireland. But with every great victory, there always seemed to be an even greater loss—in Dallas in 1963, and again in Los Angeles 5 years later.

It was during these times of great sorrow that Americans saw the strength of Rose Kennedy, the deep convictions, and the intense and unyielding dedication to her faith. In her quiet manner she inspired millions of Americans, and helped us overcome our collective grief.

She will be remembered as an outgoing daughter, a caring wife, a loving mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. In the words of her son, John Kennedy, "She was the glue that held the family together." She is being buried in Boston today. May she rest in peace.

CALL FOR REDUCED FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

(Mr. BARR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, during the recently concluded campaign, which culminated in the landslide victory for

myself and many other candidates all across this land, we heard a message loud and clear. That message was: less government, lower taxes, and less regulation.

Mr. Speaker, let us not engage as we have seen in recent days up here in the old Chinese torture of death by a thousand cuts, to engage in death by a thousand amendments.

We have heard that message. The message is, we the people of these United States want lower taxes, less Government, and less regulation. We will have the opportunity to stand tall before the American people this week and pass the unfunded mandates bill and pass a balanced budget amendment with a set of teeth in it; namely, the three-fifths majority to raise taxes.

This is what the people want. Let us give the people what they want, and they have spoken oh so eloquently. Let us take up that charge and do them proud.

CONTRACT WITH AMERICA DOES NOT ADD UP

(Mr. TORRES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, much ado has been made about the Republican Contract With America, especially the pie in the sky balanced budget amendment.

This publicity stunt demonstrates the mastery of soundbites by Republicans. But it is obvious that they are not masters of another area, and, that is, arithmetic. The contract just does not add up.

When the Republicans led the minority party, they had noting to lose. They could propose all sorts of empty, feel-good reforms because everybody knew they would not pass in this House. Even the great Houdini cannot cut taxes, increase defense spending, and balance the budget all at the same time.

But now you have the responsibility, my friends, to lead as the new majority. The bottom line on the budget is not whether you support it but how do you achieve it.

Mr. Speaker, President Clinton and the Democrats have worked hard to make the tough choices to cut the deficit and worked toward a balanced budget, all without a Republican vote.

Let us govern with integrity, not with gimmicks and soundbites.

SUPPORT OF H.R. 5 WOULD END UNFUNDED MANDATES

(Mr. CHAMBLISS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, this week the House will continue consideration of the second major piece of legislation outlined in the Contract With

America, the prohibition of unfunded mandates.

The overwhelming feeling in Georgia's Eighth District is that this Federal Government has grown too large. How have the people come to this conclusion? They see the obvious overreaching in the form of higher taxes and increased regulation.

But, Mr. Speaker, they also see the more subtle signs of a bloated, arrogant bureaucracy; namely, the unfunded mandate.

Mr. Speaker, there was a time in this country when the understood role of our Federal Government was to work at the will of the States that created it. It is high time we return to that understanding and put back into practice the system of Government that our forefathers intended for this great Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Members to show the American people we are committed to changing the way this Congress does business. Support H.R. 5 and put an end to unfunded mandates.

SUPPORT UNFUNDED MANDATE REFORM ACT AS AMENDED

(Ms. MCCARTHY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5, the Unfunded Mandate Reform Act, creates a process that ensures and recognizes that the Federal Government should not pass its obligations down to the State and local governments without adequate funding for its mandates.

As a cosponsor of the legislation and a former State legislative leader, I am very sensitive to the potential financial and administrative burdens that Federal unfunded mandates place on State governments.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that during this bipartisan debate, one should consider the scope and cost of these unfunded mandates. In the State of Missouri, for example, an analysis of estimated costs of unfunded mandates reveals that for fiscal year 1994, the costs were \$205 million, which represents a 57 percent increase since 1992.

The National Conference of State Legislatures finds that there are 172 Federal laws that require State and local governments to spend money on Federal mandate programs.

Further, estimated cost of unfunded mandates to States could be as high as \$500 billion annually. Similarly, the cost to cities could be \$54 billion over the next 4 years and counties across this country are spending close to \$5 billion a year complying with 12 specific mandates.

H.R. 5 responds to the growing concerns about the number and the cost of Federal mandates imposed on States and local governments by ensuring careful congressional consideration before the enactment of new mandates.

I support a number of very good amendments introduced to strengthen H.R. 5 while still retaining the basic thrust and affirming